

VZCZCXRO2676
PP RUEHDBU RUEHIK RUEHYG
DE RUEHBUL #5643 3341211
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 301211Z NOV 06
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4351
INFO RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 0106
RHMCSUU/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE
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UNCLAS KABUL 005643

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SUBJECT: AIR TRANSPORT FOR AFGHANS TO HAJJ --LEASED AIRLIFT
SUPPORT NOW MEETING GOA REQUIREMENTS

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REF: KABUL 5547

¶1. (SBU) After a week of Hajj flight operations, the GoA has indicated that currently-leased aircraft are meeting the demands of Afghanistan's Hajj and can be expected to function properly through the first phase, i.e., getting Hajjis to Jeddah over the next three weeks. While some substantial issues remain (particularly the SAG's ability to issue adequate numbers of visas in time to fill the Afghan flights), these are being addressed separately. Embassy appreciates the support from the Department, NATO, and NATO capitals and confirms that all can stand down from efforts to obtain standby airlift support for the Afghans (pursuant to reftel instruction from the Department).

NEUMANN